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## REMARKS

### Status Summary

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-40 will remain pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments presented below is respectfully requested.

### Claim Objections

Claims 24, 27-30, and 34-38 have been objected to by the Examiner because the claims contain the phrase "adapted to." In response, each of the objected claims has been amended to remove the phrase "adapted to." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to claims 24, 27-30, and 34-38 should be withdrawn.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,097,948 to Sjodin et al., hereinafter referred to as "Sjodin," in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,075 to Irtan et al., hereinafter referred to as "Irtan." The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present subject matter as claimed in independent claims 1, 13 and 24 includes methods and a signaling message routing node for screening mobile application part (MAP) messages in a transit network and applying a MAP screening rule specific to a destination network that is a different network from the transit

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network. For example, each of independent claims 1, 13, and 24 has been amended to recite that the screening is performed in a transit network that is a different network from the destination network and that the screening rule applied is for the destination network. Support for the amended claim language that indicates that the destination network and the transit network are different networks is found, for example, in Figure 6, where transit network **600** is illustrated as distinct or different from destination networks **402** and **406**. Support for the claim language that indicates that the screening rule applied is the transit network is for the destination network, is found for example, in Table 1 on page 16 of the present specification. For example, as illustrated in Table 1 on page 16 of the present specification and the associated description, the different called party address ranges correspond to different destination networks. Different MAP screening criteria are applied for the different destination networks. The MAP screening criteria are applied in transit network so that the transit network can act as a screener for plural destination networks. Performing the MAP screening in the transit network for one or more different destination networks reduces the need for individual destination networks to have their own MAP screening implementations.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Sjodin of performing MAP screening in a transit network where the screening rules that are applied are for a destination network that is a different network from the transit network. In contrast, firewalls **81** of Sjodin are located in the transit network and perform screening for the transit network. For example, Sjodin states:

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One problem with the arrangement illustrated in Figures 1-6 were a microcellular network uses SS7 signaling to access mobility management features of a macrocellular network is that the exterminable applied signaling from the microcellular network can disadvantageously interfere with existing functions of the macrocellular network that are supported by SS7 signaling within the macrocellular network. Accordingly, referencing Figure 7, present invention provides a firewall **71** between the mobility server **48a** and the associated SS7 signaling channel to HLR 36, and similarly provides a firewall between the mobility server **52a** and the associated SS7 signaling channel to HLR 36. (see column 10 lines 44-58 as Sjodin.)

In the above quoted passage and in Figure 7, Sjodin indicates that the goal of the firewalls is to protect macrocellular network **12**, which according to Sjodin is the transit network between two microcellular networks **14** and **16**. In other words, Sjodin teaches providing firewalls in the transit network that apply screening criteria to protect the transit network. There is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion of applying screening in a transit network where the screening rule is for the destination network and the destination network is a different network from the transit network. Accordingly, Sjodin fails to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in independent claims 1, 13, or 24.

Irten likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Irten is directed to routing short messages between message centers. There is no mention of a transit network or of applying a MAP based screening rule in the transit network where the screening rule is for a destination network that is a different network from the transit network. Accordingly, it respectfully submitted that the rejection claims 1, 12, and 24 and their dependent claims as inpatentable over Sjodin in view of Irten should be withdrawn.

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On page 5, the official action indicates that step 20c in Figure 3a of Irtan discloses applying destination based screening criteria as claimed in claim 24. Applicants respectfully disagree. Step 20c refers to the operations performed by a message center to determine whether a message is local and should be delivered directly to a subscriber or whether the message should be forwarded to the home message center of a destination. Rather than being a destination-network-based screening criteria, step 20c of Irtan refers to an operation performed by a message center to ensure that it should be message center that delivers a message, rather than another message center. If anything, step 20c in Irtan refers to a message-center-based screening criteria. Thus, for this additional reason, the rejection of claim 1, 13, and 24 and their dependent claims should be withdrawn.

#### CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

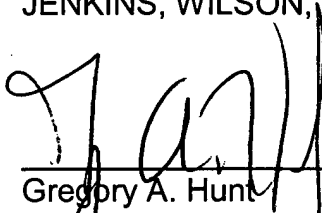
A check in the amount of \$460.00 is enclosed. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

Date: January 8, 2008

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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